

# Lake Commissioner Sines says he won't seek re-election

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12-2-11

Lake County Commissioner Raymond E. Sines confirmed Thursday that he will not seek another four-year term next year.

The 60-year-old Sines, a Perry Village Republican, has served as a commissioner since 2003 and previously as a state representative for eastern Lake County from 1988 through 1996.

"I think it's time for new blood and for new people to come up and step up and fresh ideas for what we need to go forward in politics,"



Sines

Sines said.

The commissioner plans to serve the remainder of his term that expires at the end of next year.

"I've said that all along, I don't quit things in the middle," Sines said.

"I think it's the right thing to do in this environment and knowing what's going on with the budget, and I'm in better position to go forward in this difficult time."

As of Thursday morning, two Republicans had filed candidacy

petitions to run for the seat: Wiloughby Hills Councilman David A. Fiebig and North Perry Village Councilman Richard Shreve.

The filing deadline to run for this seat is Wednesday at 4 p.m.

With a likely Republican primary, Sines believes the election cycle will help prepare candidates for the job as commissioner, so he doesn't plan to step aside early to create a potential Republican appointment to serve out the remainder of the term.

"I think anyone who decides to run will need that time to feel their way through the job," he said.

**See Sines, Page A4**

## Sines

From Page A1

"It's kind of training before they get thrown to the wolves."

Sines said next year shapes up to be tough financially for the county and his biggest goal moving forward is to help craft a budget that continues to shrink in size.

"We're looking at \$52 million — a budget (total) that we worked with nine years ago," he said. "There's going to be some adjustments and changes."

Commissioners approved a \$54.83 million permanent general fund budget for this year. In 2010, the county's budget was \$58.54 million, while the 2009 budget was \$61 million.

The commissioner said the county will face difficult times ahead as revenues have declined for many reasons, including cuts in the state local government funding, tangible property reimbursements and other sources.

"I think I can provide some history and some understanding on how we got to where we are and someone

people could call and say 'What do we do here?'," Sines said.

He plans to stay active in the political scene and looks forward to enjoying a life for which he has other many other interests that include family, friends and work as a business owner.

"I'm healthy, I feel young," Sines said. "I just felt it was the time."